

Section 3

PERSON'S IDENTITY

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Person type: PType

Name	Definition
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PType	Indicates whether the person is a victim, suspect, or both
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Uses

Used to identify a person's role in an incident.

Discussion

Victims are people who died in a suicide, violence-related homicide, legal intervention, as the result of a firearm injury, or from an undetermined manner. A baby who dies as the result of direct, violent injuries sustained before birth should not be recorded as a victim unless he or she was delivered and lived outside the womb for any period of time and was issued both a birth certificate and a death certificate.

Suspects are those suspected of having killed another person in an incident, whether intentionally or (in the case of firearm injuries) unintentionally. When two or more people attack a victim in an incident, all of the attackers should be recorded as suspects, regardless of who actually dealt the fatal blow. For example, in the case of two armed robbers who hold up a store, even if only one actually pulled the trigger, both robbers should be listed as suspected offenders in the homicide.

Both are victims who also killed someone else in the incident. For example, a person who kills his wife and himself would have a Ptype of "Both" as would a person who kills a police officer and is then shot dead himself by another police officer. A suicide victim has a Ptype of "Victim", not "Both", unless they also killed someone else in the incident. A person's status as a victim, suspect, or both should be assigned only with reference to fatal injuries.

One source may report more people in an incident than another, e.g., a suspect may be mentioned in a police report, but not in the medical examiner records. The value '4' can be entered for the person(s) not mentioned by a source.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
PType	Person type:	Person	Number	1	LR/ER/LR/O	CME/DC/PR/SHR

Response Options:

PType

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Victim |
| 2 | Suspect |
| 3 | Both victim and suspect |
| 4 | This source does not mention this person |

Data Standards or Guidelines

NVISS

NAME

Last name: LName
First name: FName
Middle name: MName

Name	Definition
LName	Last name of victim or suspect
FName	First name of victim or suspect
MName	Middle name of victim or suspect

Uses

Personal identifiers are used to uniquely identify an individual for linking data across data sources and for identifying duplicate records. See the Introduction section of this manual for a discussion about handling variables that can identify individual persons or agencies.

Discussion

Names are not always accurate unique identifiers, as alternate spellings and versions of a name are common. Some victims and suspects also use one or more aliases. In some reporting sites, an individual data source will require that unique identifiers, such as name or social security number, be stored in hard copy only and not in the electronic database. If this is the case, it is acceptable to leave these fields blank.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
LName	Last name:	Person	Text	50	ER/LR/LR	DC/CME/PR
FName	First name:	Person	Text	50	ER/LR/LR	DC/CME/PR
MName	Middle name:	Person	Text	50	ER/LR/LR	DC/CME/PR

Response Options:

LName
 FName
 MName
 Unk Unknown

Social Security #: SSN**Name Definition**

SSN	Social Security number of victim or suspect
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Uses

Personal identifiers are used to uniquely identify an individual for linking data across data sources and for identifying duplicate records. See the Introduction section of this manual for a discussion about handling variables that can identify individual persons or agencies.

Discussion

At some reporting sites, an individual data source will require that unique identifiers, such as name or social security number be stored in hard copy only, and not in the electronic database. If this is the case, it is acceptable to leave these fields blank.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
SSN	Social Security #:	Person	Number	9	LR/ER	CME/DC

Response Options:

SSN	999999999	Unknown
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AGE

Date of birth: DOB
Age: Age
Age unit: AgeTyp

Name	Definition
DOB	Date of birth of victim or suspect
Age	Age of victim or suspect
AgeTyp	Type of unit (e.g., years, hours) used to report age

Uses

Age is standard demographic information used in epidemiologic analyses. Date of birth is used to verify age and to assist in uniquely identifying an individual. See the Introduction section of this manual for a discussion about handling variables that can identify individual persons or agencies.

Discussion

Age is reported using the same conventions that vital statistics data uses to facilitate more precise reporting of newborn and infant ages. It is reported in two variables: “Age” identifies the number of years, months, other units of the victim, and “AgeTyp” identifies the type of unit used. So, for example, a two-month-old baby has an Age of 2, and an AgeTyp of 2 (months). In some cases, the victim’s or suspect’s exact age will not be known. If age is provided within a five-year age range or less, choose the midpoint of the range; round to the lower year if the midpoint calculation results in a half year. For example, a suspect reported to be 20 to 25 years of age would be entered as 22. If an age range of > 5 years is provided, enter the age as unknown. Do not calculate age from date of birth and date of incident. If age is not provided, code as “Unknown”. For victims, use the age at the time of death. For suspects, use the age as given in the record in question whether it is the age at injury or at arrest.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
DOB	Date of birth:	Person	Text	10	LR/ER	CME/DC
Age	Age:	Person	Number	3	LR/ER/LR/O	CME/DC/PR/SHR
AgeTyp	Age unit:	Person	Number	1	LR/ER/LR	CME/DC/PR

Response Options:

DOB

Age

999 Unknown

AgeTyp

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1 | Years |
| 2 | Months |
| 3 | Weeks |
| 4 | Days |
| 5 | Hours |
| 6 | Minutes |
| 9 | Unknown |

Data Standards or Guidelines

U.S. standard death certificate

Person's sex: Sex

Name	Definition
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Sex	Sex of the victim or suspect
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Uses

The person's sex is standard demographic information used in epidemiologic analyses.

Discussion

None

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
Sex	Person's sex:	Person	Number	1	ER/LR/O/LR	DC/CME/SHR/PR

Response Options:

Sex	1	Male
	2	Female
	9	Unknown

RACE

White:	White
Black:	Black
Asian:	Asian
Pacific Islander:	PacIsland
American Indian:	AmerIndian
Other:	OtherRace
Unspecified:	Unspecified

Name	Definition
White	Person with origins among any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East
Black	Person with origins among any of the black racial groups of Africa
Asian	Person with origins among any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent
PacIsland	Person with origins among any of the original peoples of the Pacific Islands
AmerIndian	Person with origins among any of the original peoples of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition
OtherRace	Other
Unspecified	Unspecified

Uses

Although the biological significance of race has been questioned, data on race are used frequently in public health surveillance and epidemiologic, clinical, and health services research.

Discussion

Racial categories are neither precise nor mutually exclusive, and the concept of race lacks clear scientific definition. Starting in 1977, the federal government sought to standardize data on race and ethnicity among its agencies through the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive Number 15: Race and Ethnic Standards for Federal Statistics and Administrative Reporting (OMB 1978).

Statistical Policy Directive Number 15 was replaced and superseded on October 30, 1997. According to the standards, the racial and ethnic categories set forth should not be interpreted as being primarily biological or genetic in reference. Race and ethnicity may be thought of in terms of social and cultural characteristics, and ancestry.

Person/Identity

The following major changes regarding race were made to the standards: (1) The Asian or Pacific Islander category was separated into two, replacing the existing four categories with five; (2) When self-identification is used, there should be a method for reporting more than one race that should take the form of multiple responses to a single question and should not include a “multiracial” category; (3) Some changes were made to the definitions of the categories, e.g., Central and South American Indians should be classified as American Indian. If a person’s ethnicity is provided in place of their race, e.g., race is given as “Hispanic”, and no other valid race value is given, mark their race as “unspecified”. For SHR data, if race is left blank, enter “Unspecified”. If “Asian/Pacific Islander” is indicated, check both “Asian” and “PacIsland”.

These new standards were used by the U.S. Census Bureau in the 2000 decennial census. Other Federal programs have been instructed to adopt the standards as soon as possible, but not later than January 1, 2003, for household surveys, administrative forms and records, and other data collections. Most state health departments have not adopted the new race categories in their vital statistics registries for 2003; rather, each state has set its own start-up date for the new format and these dates range over the next few years.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
White	White:	Person	Checkbox	1	ER/LR/O/LR	DC/CME/SHR/PR
Black	Black:	Person	Checkbox	1	ER/LR/O/LR	DC/CME/SHR/PR
Asian	Asian:	Person	Checkbox	1	ER/LR/O/LR	DC/CME/SHR/PR
PacIsland	Pacific Islander:	Person	Checkbox	1	ER/LR/O/LR	DC/CME/SHR/PR
AmerIndian	American Indian:	Person	Checkbox	1	ER/LR/O/LR	DC/CME/SHR/PR
OtherRace	Other:	Person	Checkbox	1	ER/LR/O/LR	DC/CME/SHR/PR
Unspecified	Unspecified:	Person	Checkbox	1	ER/LR/O/LR	DC/CME/SHR/PR

Response Options:

White

Black

Asian

PacIsland

AmerIndian

OtherRace

Unspecified

0 No

1 Yes

Data Standards or Guidelines

Office of Management and Budget, Revisions to the Standards for Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/ombdir15.html>.

Hispanic/Latino/Spanish: Ethnic

Name	Definition
Ethnic	Ethnicity of the victim or suspect of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race

Uses

Data on ethnicity can be used in public health surveillance, and in epidemiologic, clinical, and health services research.

Discussion

Ethnicity is a concept used to differentiate population groups on the basis of shared cultural characteristics or geographic origins. A variety of cultural attributes contribute to ethnic differentiation, including language, patterns of social interaction, religion, and styles of dress. However, ethnic differentiation is imprecise and fluid. It is contingent upon a sense of group identity that can change over time and that involves subjective and attitudinal influences. Since 1977, the federal government has sought to standardize data on race and ethnicity among its agencies through the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive Number 15: Race and Ethnic Standards for Federal Statistics and Administrative Reporting (OMB 1978). The revision to Directive Number 15 replaces the two ethnic categories — Hispanic and Not of Hispanic Origin — with "Hispanic or Latino" and "Not Hispanic or Latino".

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
Ethnic	Hispanic/Latino/ Spanish:	Person	Number	1	ER/LR/O/LR	DC/CME/SHR/PR

Response Options:**Ethnic**

- 0 Not Hispanic or Latino
- 1 Hispanic or Latino
- 9 Unknown

Data Standards or Guidelines

Office of Management and Budget, Revisions to the Standards for Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg/ombdir15.html>.

ADDRESS

State:	ResState
County:	ResCounty
City:	Place
Address:	ResAddress
ZIP code:	ResZip
Country:	Countr
US Census tract:	CensSt
US Census block group:	CensBl

Name	Definition
ResState	Residential state address of victim or suspect, FIPS 2-digit state code
ResCounty	Residential county address of victim or suspect, FIPS 3-digit county code
Place	Residential city address of the victim or suspect, FIPS 5-digit city/town code (“place” code)
ResAddress	Residential street address of the victim or suspect
ResZip	Residential zip code, 5-digit zip code
Countr	Residential country of victim or suspect
CensSt	U.S. Census tract of residence of victim or suspect
CensBl	U.S. Census block group of residence of victim or suspect

Uses

The address is useful to determine the agency responsible for potential public health interventions, to undertake geocoding, and to calculate population-based injury rates. The address can also be used to gain access to U.S. Census information about the socioeconomic status of the victim’s neighborhood. These data elements also identify non-U.S. residents. See the Introduction section of this manual for a discussion about handling variables that can identify individual persons or agencies.

Discussion

If a person is currently residing in a short-term facility such as a rehabilitation hospital, drug treatment program, jail, etc., use his or her home address as their residential address. If a person is residing in a long-term facility, such as a college dormitory, prison, or residential nursing home, use the institution’s address. If they are living in a short-term facility and no residential address is noted, use the address of the short-term facility. The address information should be collected at the local level in a format that meets the local standards for geocoding. Reporting sites planning to geocode their data at the local level

can generate the census block group and tract in which the incident occurred from a geocoding program. In some states, the vital statistics registry or police department will have already geocoded the address and will have census tract and block group information available. The person's city/town ("place") and county are coded using standard Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) codes. If the state or country of residence is unknown, enter 99. If the person is a resident of a U.S. territory, enter the FIPS code for that territory (see the following list). If the person is not a resident of a U.S. state or territory, enter 88 for "Not applicable". In general, use whatever is coded on the death certificate as the place of residence. This should handle tourists, itinerants, part-time residents, etc. If there is no death certificate, as for living suspects, use whatever state of residence is provided by the CME and police. Native American reservations should be coded as the state in which it is located. The NVDRS software provides these codes in drop-down menus with a convenient user interface. For out-of-state addresses, the following website supplies FIPS place and county codes: <http://geonames.usgs.gov/fips55.html>. FIPS place codes are frequently more specific than standard city/town designations. For example, they frequently supply codes for neighborhoods of cities.

Note: Vital Statistics data use two coding systems for states: FIPS and their own system. Please use the FIPS version here. It is okay to look up the zip code in a directory if it is not provided.

Name	Label	Table	Type	Field Length	Priority	Primacy
ResState	State:	Person	Number	100	LR/ER/LR	CME/DC/PR
ResCounty	County:	Person	Number	3	LR/ER/LR	CME/DC/PR
Place	City:	Person	Number	5	LR/ER/LR	CME/DC/PR
ResAddress	Address:	Person	Text	50	LR/ER/LR	CME/DC/PR
ResZip	ZIP code:	Person	Number	5	LR/ER/LR	CME/DC/PR
Countr	Country:	Person	Text	45	O/O/O	CME/DC/PR
CensSt	US Census tract:	Person	Text	7	O	DC
CensBl	US Census block group:	Person	Text	1	O	DC

Response Options:

ResState

- 1 Alabama
- 2 Alaska
- 4 Arizona
- 5 Arkansas

Person/Identity

6	California
8	Colorado
9	Connecticut
10	Delaware
11	District of Columbia
12	Florida
13	Georgia
15	Hawaii
16	Idaho
17	Illinois
18	Indiana
19	Iowa
20	Kansas
21	Kentucky
22	Louisiana
23	Maine
24	Maryland
25	Massachusetts
26	Michigan
27	Minnesota
28	Mississippi
29	Missouri
30	Montana
31	Nebraska
32	Nevada
33	New Hampshire
34	New Jersey
35	New Mexico
36	New York
37	North Carolina
38	North Dakota
39	Ohio
40	Oklahoma
41	Oregon
42	Pennsylvania
43	Puerto Rico
44	Rhode Island
45	South Carolina
46	South Dakota
47	Tennessee
48	Texas
49	Utah
50	Vermont
51	Virginia
53	Washington
54	West Virginia
55	Wisconsin
56	Wyoming
60	American Samoa

64	Federated States of Micronesia	
66	Guam	
68	Marshall Islands	
69	Northern Mariana Islands	
70	Palau	
74	U.S. Minor Outlying Islands	
78	Virgin Islands of the U.S.	
88	Not applicable	
99	Unknown	
<hr/>		
ResCounty		
Place		
ResAddress		
9	Unknown	
ResZip		
99999	Unknown	
Countr		
	Afghanistan	Cambodia
	Albania	Cameroon
	Algeria	Canada
	American Samoa	Cape Verde
	Andorra	Cayman Islands
	Angola	Central African Republic
	Anguilla	Chad
	Antigua and Barbuda	Chile
	Argentina	China
	Armenia	Christmas Island
	Aruba	Cocos (Keeling) Islands
	Australia	Colombia
	Austria	Comoros
	Azerbaijan	Congo, Democratic Republic
	Bahamas, The	of the Congo, Republic of the
	Bahrain	Cook Islands
	Bangladesh	Costa Rica
	Barbados	Cote d'Ivoire
	Belarus	Croatia
	Belgium	Cuba
	Belize	Cyprus
	Benin	Czech Republic
	Bermuda	Denmark
	Bhutan	Djibouti
	Bolivia	Dominica
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Dominican Republic
	Botswana	Ecuador
	Brazil	Egypt
	British Virgin	El Salvador
	IslandsBrunei Darussalam	Equatorial Guinea
	Bulgaria	Eritrea
	Burkina Faso	Estonia
	Burundi	Ethiopia

Person/Identity

Falkland Islands
Faroe IslandsFiji
FinlandFrance
French Guiana
French Polynesia
Gabon
Gambia, The
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Gibraltar
Greece
Greenland
Grenada
Guadeloupe
Guam
Guatemala
Guernsey
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Holy See
Honduras
Hong Kong
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Jan Mayen
Japan
Jersey
Jordan
Kazakstan
Kenya
Kiribati
Korea-North
Korea-South
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Laos
Latvia
Lebanon

Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Macao
Macedonia
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives
Mali
Malta
Man
Marshall Islands
Martinique
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mayotte
Mexico
Micronesia
Moldova
Monaco
Mongolia
Montserrat
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia
Nauru
Nepal
Netherlands
Netherlands Antilles
New Caledonia
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Niue
Norfolk Island
Northern Mariana
Islands
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Palau
Palestine
Panama

Papua New Guinea
 Paraguay
 Peru
 Philippines
 Pitcairn
 Poland
 Portugal
 Puerto Rico
 Qatar
 Reunion
 Romania
 Russia
 Rwanda
 Saint Kitts and Nevis
 Saint Lucia
 Saint Pierre and Miquelon
 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
 Samoa
 San Marino
 Sao Tome and Principe
 Saudi Arabia
 Senegal
 Seychelles
 Sierra Leone
 Singapore
 Slovakia
 Slovenia
 Solomon Islands
 Somalia
 South Africa
 Spain
 Sri Lanka
 St. Helena
 Sudan, The
 Suriname
 Svalbard
 Swasiland

Sweden
 Switzerland
 Syria
 Taiwan
 Tajikistan
 Tanzania
 Thailand
 Togo
 Tokelau
 Tonga
 Trinidad and Tobago
 Tunisia
 Turkey
 Turkmenistan
 Turks and Caicos Islands
 Tuvalu
 Uganda
 Ukraine
 United Arab Emirates
 United Kingdom
 United States
 Uruguay
 Uzbekistan
 Vanuatu
 Venezuela
 Vietnam
 Virgin Islands of the U.S.
 Wallis and Futuna
 Western Sahara
 Yemen
 Yugoslavia
 Zambia
 Zimbabwe
 Other
 Unknown

CensSt
 9999.99 Unknown
 CensBl
 9999.99 Unknown

Data Standards or Guidelines

Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS); National Institute of Standards and Technologies; U.S. Bureau of the Census; U.S. Postal Service